



CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM

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Memorandum

Date: June 2, 1998

To: BDAC Members

From: Lester A. Snow
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Subject: Public Hearing Comments

Summary

There were 17 public hearings. Attached is a summary of comments made at each hearing. There are particular items/issues that have been raised in each hearing. These are outlined in the following Detailed Discussion section. Four items are mentioned most often:

- The Program should implement water development actions (storage and/or conveyance);
- Agriculture is being asked to pay more than their fair share;
- The Program should move away from water development actions and focus on a 4th alternative which stresses water use efficiency; and
- Water conservation efforts are being maximized in urban and agricultural areas.

Detailed Discussion

The following presents items/issues offered by the three major stakeholder groups (Urban, Environmental and Agriculture) in each region. Items that were spoken to by the majority of speakers in that region or at a particular meeting in that region are highlighted with an "*".

Southern California (Ontario, Burbank, Irvine and Encinitas)

- *Urban speakers indicated the work they have been doing to conserve water, that better water quality, as a result of the Program, will allow them to conserve/recycle even more and irrespective of conservation efforts they will need more water and look to the Program for some of that water. They are willing to pay their fair share but not keen on paying for others.

CALFED Agencies

California	The Resources Agency	Federal	Environmental Protection Agency	Department of Agriculture
	Department of Fish and Game		Department of the Interior	
	Department of Water Resources		Fish and Wildlife Service	
	California Environmental Protection Agency		Bureau of Reclamation	
	State Water Resources Control Board		U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Natural Resources Conservation Service
				Department of Commerce
				National Marine Fisheries Service

Public Hearing Comments

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Sacramento Valley (Chico, Yuba City and Redding)

- Urban interests are concerned about impacts of the ERP on infrastructure.
- Environmental groups called for the need to work harder at improving our water use efficiency program, particularly in the agriculture arena, and pushed for a 4th alternative which stresses water use efficiency.
- Agriculture supports storage.
- *Both agriculture and urban stressed the need for protection of water, property and area of origin rights and adherence to local ordinances covering groundwater storage or water transfer actions.

Public Hearing Comment Summary

Week of April 20-24

Ontario

55 attendees; 9 speakers

Focus of Presentations

- Favor Alternative 3 - because of need for improved water quality and additional water.
- Need to improve upon water conservation particularly in the agriculture arena.

Additional Perspectives

- Blue ribbon committee of economists to identify most economic efficient program.
- Request for more outreach to better educate public. Fear that if the Program comes to a vote without the education, voters will be misled by television spots.
- Poem about Ward Valley

Fresno

200 attendees, 25 speakers

Focus of Presentations

- Unacceptability of land retirement as a water conservation measure and need for additional storage/conveyance.

Additional Perspectives

- Need for reliable water on an interim basis while building to ultimate solution. Unable to wait 15 years for more reliable water.
- Bonds for rural school in Westlands Water District impacted by lack of reliable water; school funding impacted if land retired, students' education shortchanged.
- Need to see that there is going to be more water if agriculture is to participate.
- Program efforts are biased towards the ecosystem restoration program.
- Use market forces to move water south of Delta; Alternative 3 offers greatest flexibility allowing the market to work best.
- Water conservation in agricultural arena needs to be improved.

Oakland

140 attendees, 50 speakers

Focus of Presentations

- Water use efficiency program is not acceptable.
 - Comment period extension needed.
 - Need fourth alternative which focuses on conservation.
 - Structural facilities demonstrate CALFED is going down traditional path.
 - Economic analysis needed to demonstrate practicality of conservation vs facilities.
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Bakersfield

90 attendees; 30 speakers

Focus of Presentations

- Do not idle farmland as a means of water conservation.
- Need improvements to water supplies, supply goals need to be specific.
- Need current CVP and SWP contract amounts more reliably not less water more reliably.
- Need to account for past reallocations of agriculture's water.
- Oppose regulatory driven urban and agricultural water conservation.
- Willing to pay just for benefits that are received, no longer willing to pay for environmental needs.

Additional Perspectives

- BDAC member
 - Stuart Pyle - water supply goals need to be more specific; need to account for current reallocation of water; oppose regulatory driven water conservation; Alternative 1 - out; Alternative 3 best for supply and habitat, stage activities; all elements proceed together.
- Not enough agricultural water conservation in the plan; folks in Kern County doing considerably better than the 1 percent noted.
- Water use efficiency impacts to local economy not documented in EIS/EIR. Similarly, salt load problems not discussed in EIS/EIR.
- Environmental uses need to be held to same conservation standards as urban and agriculture. Speculate that if environmental uses could conserve 5 percent, water enough for all.
- Concern that Water Quality program may supersede current efforts underway with State Board. Don't want another layer of work/interaction.
- Went through a lengthy process to obtain Reclamation's OK re: water conservation plans; do not want to start again with AB3616.

Santa Cruz

30 attendees; 11 speakers

Focus of Presentation

- Emphasis should be on water conservation rather than facilities.
- Extend the comment period.

Other Perspectives

- Lack of specificity in report regarding impacts on agricultural lands, relationship to CVPIA and State Board's efforts, benefits to Central Coast and current water usage.
- Use economic incentives to maximize agricultural water efficiencies; if we can put a man on the moon surely agricultural can conserve more water; people said Mono Lake would not get any additional water; energy savings were sizable once energy crisis hit, bottom line for most was cost savings; phase in cost increases for agricultural water to drive conservation.
- Assurances should include water allocation limits.
- Beneficiaries should pay.
- Need increased water supply; water conservation will not be enough.
- ~~Taking farmland out of production will lead to more urban development and loss of habitat.~~

- Looking for specific storage plans.
- Maintain water rights and adherence to area of origin requirements must be part of assurances.
- Groundwater use and water transfers must adhere to local ordinances.

Other Perspectives

- Use groundwater storage to help recharge basin.
- Opinion that conjunctive use really means that you sell surface water than pump groundwater.
- How do locals participate in adaptive management? Afraid changes will occur after agreements and locals left out and not know what is going on or be in agreement with changes.
- Remember how much the energy folks balked at conservation and look at their success; water conservation can be just as successful. No storage.
- Groundwater management and water transfers programs need more work. Water use efficiency program needs to be improved.
- Proposed meander belts could impact roads/bridges, agriculture and associated revenues, tax base, etc.
- Compliment CALFED for its outreach and particularly Terry Mills.
- Flood protection needed in North State.

Week of May 11-15

Encinitas

80 attendees; 20 speakers

Focus of Presentations

- Need for additional water supply reliability and improved water quality.
- Should focus efforts on improving water conservation program.

Additional Perspectives

- Oppose to solution taking agriculture land from production; call for more specific social and economic analysis.
- Alternative 1 and the water use efficiency program may evolve into an acceptable alternative.
- Beneficiaries must pay.
- Call for additional hearings in southern California.
- Desalinization costs have dropped; it should be actively considered.
- Grey water use needs to be part of the water use efficiency program.
- Bulletin 160-98 not appropriate to use for water need assumptions.

Pittsburg

100 attendees; 24 speakers

Focus of Presentations

- Additional storage is needed; alternative selected should allow for all to get water from common pool.
 - Water quality improvements not being adequately addressed.
 - Program should focus on water use efficiency.
 - Recreation needs are not being considered adequately.
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efforts.

- Delta water quality will decrease with a peripheral canal.
- This is a private property rights grab.
- The EIS/R needs to display growth inducing impacts in Southern California. Similarly, the economic and social impacts on agricultural. Land need to be displayed.
- Propose that a research/interpretation center be developed at Rio Vista.

Yuba City

Focus of Presentation

- Flood protection in Northern California.
- Need additional storage.
- Need for assurances to protect ground water.

Additional Perspectives

- Current reservoir storage is being manipulated for sale of water not flood protection.
- 7000 acres of agricultural land proposed for conversion by ERP worth \$11.9 million.
- Want site-specific information about storage sites.
- Population growth is the problem; Cities should share in agricultural losses by giving up land that would be used for agricultural. Agriculture shouldn't be taxed to mitigate for agricultural losses.
- Watershed Management Program needs some beef.
- Assure water, property and area of origin rights are preserved.
- Salt water intrusion is the problem, a dam at the Carquinez Strait is the answer.
- Agriculture has made good effort to conserve water; believe local voluntary approaches are best.